

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A water-based emulsifier wax gel comprising
 - a) skin-identical sphingolipids,
 - b) at least one emulsifier,
 - c) at least one wax-like consistency-imparting agent, and
 - d) water.
2. The gel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sphingolipids are ceramides.
3. The gel as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ceramides are obtained from mammal skin, a free sphingoid base or mixtures thereof.
4. The gel as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ceramides are selected from the group consisting of sphingosine, sphinganine, phytosphingosine, and 6-hydroxy-4-sphingenine.
5. The gel as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sphingolipids are present in an amount from 1 to 4% by weight.
6. The gel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the emulsifier is a nonionic or an anionic emulsifier.
7. The gel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the emulsifier is selected from fatty acids and neutralized fatty acids; glyceryl mono-fatty acid esters, ethoxylated fatty alcohols and/or esters; fatty alcohols with a high degree of ethoxylation

and/or fatty alcohols with a low degree of ethoxylation, polyglycerol esters, sugar esters, lecithins, phospholipids and any combination thereof..

8. The gel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the emulsifier comprises addition products of from 2 to 30 mol of ethylene oxide and/or 0 to 5 mol of propylene oxide onto linear fatty alcohols having 8 to 22 carbon atoms, onto fatty acids having 12 to 22 carbon atoms or onto alkylphenols having 8 to 15 carbon atoms in the alkyl group;

C_{12/18}-fatty acid mono- and diesters of addition products of from 1 to 30 mol of ethylene oxide onto glycerol;

glycerol mono- and diesters and sorbitan mono- and diesters of saturated and unsaturated fatty acids having 6 to 22 carbon atoms and ethylene oxide addition products thereof;

alkyl mono- and oligoglycosides having 8 to 22 carbon atoms in the alkyl radical and ethoxylated analogs thereof;

addition products of from 2 to 60 mol, in particular 2 to 15 mol or 15 to 60 mol, of ethylene oxide onto castor oil and/or hydrogenated castor oil; polyols or esters;

partial esters based on linear, branched, unsaturated or saturated C_{6/22}-fatty acids, ricinoleic acid, and 12-hydroxystearic acid and glycerol, polyglycerol, pentaerythritol, dipentaerythritol, sugar alcohols, alkyl glucosides and polyglucosides;

mono-, di- and trialkyl phosphates, and mono-, di- and/or tri-PEG alkyl phosphates;

wool wax alcohols;

polysiloxane-polyether copolymers and derivatives thereof;

mixed esters of pentaerythritol, fatty acids, citric acid and fatty alcohol and/or mixed esters of fatty acids having 6 to 22 carbon atoms, methylglucose and polyols, and

polyalkylene glycols.

9. The gel as claimed in claim 1, wherein said emulsifiers are present in an amount from 0.5 to 6.0% by weight.
10. The gel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the consistency-imparting agent is selected from fatty alcohols or hydroxy fatty alcohols having 12 to 22 carbon atoms, partial glycerides, fatty acids and hydroxy fatty acids.
11. The gel as claimed in claim 1, wherein the consistency-imparting agents are present in an amount from 1 to 8% by weight.
12. The gel as claimed in claim 1, wherein said water is present in an amount from 80 to 98% by weight.
13. The gel as claimed in claim 1, further comprising additional auxiliaries.
14. The gel as claimed in claim 13, wherein the auxiliaries are chosen from humectants, preservatives and mixtures thereof.

15. The gel as claimed in claim 13, wherein said auxiliaries are present in an amount from 0.1 to 10% by weight.
16. A process for the preparation of emulsifier wax gels comprising melting skin-identical sphingolipids with at least one emulsifier, at least one consistency-imparting agent at a temperature which is increased relative to room temperature, bringing the mixture into contact with water, homogenizing the mixture and then cooling the mixture to room temperature with stirring.
17. The process of Claim 16 further comprising adding an additional auxiliary during said melting.
18. An oil-in-water emulsion comprising a water-based emulsifier wax gel which comprises skin-identical sphingolipids, at least one emulsifier, at least one wax-like consistency-imparting agent, and water.
19. The emulsion as claimed in claim 18, wherein said sphingolipids are present in an amount from 0.01 to 0.4% by weight.